

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 108491
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 AID-05 SS-15 EB-08 SP-02
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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:JRMALOTT:JES
APPROVED BY NEA:PWLANDE, ACTING
NSC: MR.ERB
AID:MADLER (DRAFT)
S/S-O:TMARTIN
-----080357 280258Z /73
O 280152Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108491

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PPDC, CE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON AID GROUP MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 089598; (B) COLOMBO 1639

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO
PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE. ORIGINAL IS BEING POUCHED.
APRIL 26, 1978
BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 29 CONCERNING THE
FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE SRI LANKA AID GROUP, I RECOGNIZE
THE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO YOU OF THIS MEETING, THE FIRST
SINCE YOUR GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER AND INSTITUTED MAJOR
ECONOMIC REFORMS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 108491

SINCE 1975, THE UNITED STATES HAS INCREASED ITS DEVELOP-
MENT ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA. INDEED, FROM 1976 THROUGH
1979 WE WILL PROVIDE MORE ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA THAN WE
DID DURING THE PREVIOUS QUARTER CENTURY.

OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE POLICIES TOWARD SRI LANKA AND
OTHER NATIONS DIRECT OUR SUPPORT PRIMARILY TOWARD AGRI-

CULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE. AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS WILL BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON HOW OUR POLICIES RELATE TO YOUR DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

WE CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING THE IMPORTANT MAHAWELI GANGA IRRIGATION PROJECT. THE UNITED STATES FUNDED THE ORIGINAL STUDY OF THIS PROJECT IN 1961, AND WE ARE NOW PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR PART OF ITS CONSTRUCTION. WE HAVE HAD NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT, THE WORLD BANK, AND THE OTHER DONOR NATIONS ON THE MAHAWELI GANGA PROJECT AND SEEK SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICIES. WE ARE READY TO COLLABORATE WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY OF THE PROJECT AND WOULD LIKE TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. WE AWAIT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PLANS AND THE RESULTS OF THE WORLD BANK STUDY ON THE PROPOSED ACCELERATION OF THIS PROJECT.

THE UNITED STATES SEEKS A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SRI LANKA THAT WILL ENJOY THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT FROM YOUR PEOPLE. I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS TOGETHER AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH YOU.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 108491

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER

HIS EXCELLENCY
J.R. JAYEWARDENE,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA,
COLOMBO. END TEXT. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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